



GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE
Public Hearing February 11, 2013

**Testimony on Raised Bill No. 144
An Act Concerning Voting By Individuals with Disabilities**

Senator Musto, Representative Jutila and Members of the GAE Committee,

My name is Sue W. Larsen. I am Chairman of the ROVAC Legislative Committee and I am here to speak on Raised Bill No. 144 An Act Concerning Voting By Individuals with Disabilities.

ROVAC would like a clearer understanding of the need for this bill. There are several methods we currently use to assist individuals with disabilities at the polls. One is curb side voting in which a voter requests assistance and the Assistant Registrars go to the parked car and the voter then fills out the ballot. Within the polling place, the Moderator, upon request, will assist the voter with the vote by phone method. Currently Moderators have authority to assist any voter who requests assistance, including those with disabilities in need of avoiding long lines. Moderators are more than willing to assist voters who are having difficulties. In South Windsor, voters call us ahead of their arrival to let us know they have special needs because of wheelchairs, walkers, crutches and other problems. The moderator is notified to look for the voter and assist in any way we can.

I believe this is a situation that can easily be resolved if we understand the issues behind this bill. Registrars are very cognizant of treating those with disabilities equally. If there are situations we need to be aware of, let's have that discussion.

Thank you for allowing me to speak today.

Sue W. Larsen, Registrar of Voters
South Windsor